(*b*) whether or his office staff is given permanent monthly hill allowance; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the negative, the reason for the same?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not call for an answer.

Statement, by caste, of appointments made by the Account Officer.

410. **MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): In regard to the appointments made by the present Account Officer since his assuming charge of his office till the 10th Kanni 1104, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Brahmins, Nayars, Catholics, Jacobites, Mar Thoma Christians, Protestants, Ezhavas, Mahomedans, Vellalas and members of other castes so appointed?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 96 furnished on 6th December 1927. (*Vide* page 343 of Volume XII of the Council Proceedings.) There is no change in the list of substantive appointments. Two Nayars and one Nadar have to be added to the list of acting men.

New Building in the General Hospital.

411. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to the new building constructed in the General Hospital, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how long is it since the building has been completed;

(*b*) the cost at which and the purpose for which the new building has been constructed; and

(*c*) the reason why the building has not yet (7-11-1928) been opened?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) About three years.

(*b*) The actual cost up to the end of Dhanu 1104 is Rs. 1,05,849. The building was put up with the idea of providing additional accommodation for in-patients.

(*c*) The building was opened on the 4th February 1929. The delay in opening it was due to the fact that certain works connected with the building, such as pump, drainage and water-pipe systems, electric lights, etc., had to be provided before the building could be occupied; and also to the fact that some of the necessary equipment had to arrive from abroad.

Depressed classes and the grant of fee concession.

412. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state;

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(*a*) whether the Velan, the Panan, the Valan (Takshan), the Asari, the Musari, the Kollan, the Tattan, the Kallasari and the Komaram are regarded as coming under depressed classes; and

(*b*) if so, whether they have also been granted fee concession?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Velans, Panans and Valans are treated as backward in respect of English and Vernacular education and poor pupils from these communities are given half-fee concession in both English and Vernacular Schools; while Asaris, Kollans, Tattans and Kallasaries are treated as backward in respect of English education only and poor pupils from among them get half-fee concession in English schools. No fee concession is at present granted to Musaries and Komarams.

Complaints against certain Officers in connection with the last Council Elections.

413. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any complaint from one of the candidates who stood for election to the Legislative Council from the Kottayam Constituency in 1103, alleging that Mr. M. P. Joseph, Munsiff-Magistrate, Kanjirapalli, and Mr. V. Joseph, Inspector of Police, Ettumanur, helped another candidate who stood for election; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the action taken in respect of the same and whether they will be prepared to take evidence in the matter.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The District Magistrate, Kottayam, reported that the petitioner, when called upon to produce evidence in support of his complaint against Mr. M. P. Joseph, Munsiff-Magistrate, gave a statement that he could not do so, so long as Mr. Joseph continued to be the Munsiff-Magistrate in Kanjirapalli. The District Magistrate made further enquiries in the matter and he got no information to show that there was any truth in the allegations. In these circumstances, that petition was recorded. As regards the petition against Mr. V. Joseph, Inspector of Police, the Government are awaiting the result of the enquiry by the Commissioner of Police.

Repair of the Puttan Todu and the Pazhaya Todu and the imposition of cess.

414. **MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have written to the Tahsildar, Mavelikara, to ascertain from the owners of lands which would be benefited by the repair of the Puttan *todu* and the Pazhaya *todu* in Kannamangalam if they are willing to pay a cess at 4½ per cent per annum on the amount spent for such repair and Rs. 180 annually for the maintenance of the above *todus*;

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